

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, April 18, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, April 18, 1837.

My dear sir, Your friendly, and welcome letter of the 6th instant, reached me yesterday. it gave us all much pleasure, as it informed us that you and your amiable wife, and daughter, were in the enjoyment of that choicest blessing, good health—may you and them long continue to enjoy that greatest of earthly blessings.

I do hope that there are no troubles which can present themselves that the Globe cannot easily surmount, altho we may sincerely regret when any of our friends become apostates from their long professed principles and republican actions. We who take “principle for our guide, and public good our end,” cannot hesitate upon our course, that is to persue our principles, and expose the apostate be he whom he may, and particularly, one, in whose republican principles we so much confided, and from his professions, we had so great a right to confide, and for whom so much had been done, as for Mr Andrew Stevenson. he, if the facts stated of him be true, it is a duty you owe your Country to expose, and lay his apostacy bare and naked before the public. Should Mr Stevenson not come *boldly* out and deny Mr Bates statement,¹ then he is a fit subject to be exposed by the Globe, and by every true republican.

¹ Joshua Bates, American partner in the house of Baring Brothers.

The present is an important crisis in our national affairs. the attempt by Biddle and the Barings, to take into their keeping the management of the currency, both in England

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and America, is too alarming to every true republican, and under these circumstances, if Stevenson has attempted by his declarations and conversations to encourage this system of fraud upon the american people, which leads directly to the recharter of the United States Bank and the destruction of our republican institutions, he ought, and must be exposed, openly and fearlessly; therefore, I cannot but approve the course the Globe has taken in this matter and only hope that Mr Stevenson, for his own sake, and the honor of his country, has been misrepresented by Mr Bates the partner of the Barings. But if in this we should be mistaken, then it is your duty as a faithful sentinel to expose the apostate with all your powers, and make him loath himself for the apostacy—this is the only way by which you can reform him, and deter others from such a course, particularly at this time when the whole money power is called into action to destroy our government by the corrupting means of the paper system. *I say, lay on, temporise not, it is always injurious.*

I trust by this, you have all seen the vallue of the Treasury order to the safety of the Revenue. *all* the people, I mean the speculators and borrowers, in Mississippi and Alabama are broke, their Bank paper at Neworleans, and Nashvill as I am informed, are from ten to 15 percent below par and going down. negroes at sherrifs sale that cost 1800 and 1000, a short time since, I am informed, are now selling at \$300 women and \$500 for men. would it not prostrate the Executive Government to be selling their domain for such *trash*. I have been conversing with David Craighead Esqr. senator in our State Legislature, who has just returned from Arkansa and Mississippi. he says that the Treasury order was a great godsend to the Country, that nothing but this saved the country from total Bankruptcy and of course the Banks. it is very doubtful whether some of the Banks will not fail—if the House of Hill of Nashville, and Dicks of N.orleans go, several of the Banks must go with them. The Banks at Nashville the other day advanced to Hill \$319,000, when the best endorsed paper by any other could not obtain a discount for \$2,500. This is a handsome comment upon the system of Banking. I have done my duty to my country and my god, have given my opinion freely as to the Treasury order, and in truth can say as far as I am informed and believe, that with the great body of the people the Treasury order is

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the most popular, as well as the most just, (it keeps our coin at home) of any of my official acts. I thought it absolutely necessary at the time, and its continuation imperious now, for the safety of the revenue, and prosperity of the present adm[ini]stration—this you are at liberty to say to all concerned. the gamblers and speculators, in and out of Congress, unite with the opposition to deny it— *none else* you may rely on it.

My health is slowly improving, but it varies with our late variable weather. We have had it as hot as in may, and again very cold with frost and ice—a frost on yesterday which has cut down the corn, killed our early potatoes, and I think all the fruit, and I am now suffering with a sore throat and sever cough with a return of the old complaint in the side. But my dear sir how grateful I am to you and your amiable lady for your kind solicitude for my health. say to Mrs. Blair, I found my cattle poor but otherwise a fine stock, and I intend to rear for her a real short horned, but before I can give it, you and her must come to see us, with your dear Elisa and your sons if with you.

Our dear little ones have been unwell with bad colds. Rachel is Constantly talking about you all—she says she knows Mrs. Blair will not forget her and Andrew, because she cut off a lock of each of their hair, and she is shure she never will forget Mrs. B. because she looks at the shawl every day that Mrs. Blair gave her. My whole Houshold cordially unite with me in kind salutations to you and yours and prayers for your wellfare and happiness, and belive me

your sincere friend

P.S. I wish you to write me often and I pray you to have the journals of the proceedings of Wise and Gardlands¹ committees sent on to me, if not already forwarded. proceed with the Globe in your old fearless manner, and you will succeed, but no temporising or you are all lost, rely on this.

¹ James Garland, M. C. from Virginia 1835–1841.

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Say to Governor Woodbury, with my kind regards accompanied with that of all my family, that I have recd his letter with the inclosure, for which I thank him, and the first day I am able, will write him. present me kindly to the President, Mr Butler, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Kendell and Mr. Pointset and their families.

N.B. I have presented your kind regards to Mary Donelson and read your note to her. the major and children desire to be presented to you all in the kindest manner.